

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): SHAPPIR, Assaf et al. Examiner:

Serial No.: 10/537,857 Group Art Unit:

Filed: April 03, 2005

Title: METHOD, CIRCUIT AND SYSTEMS FOR ERASING ONE OR MORE  
NON-VOLATILE MEMORY CELLS

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, this Information Disclosure Statement includes Form PTO-1449:

1.  listing documents including patents, publications and other information for consideration by the Examiner, however, since the subject application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of United States patents, and/or United States patent applications, and/or United States patent application publications are not included in this information disclosure statement; and/or
2.  listing documents including patents, publications and other information that have been previously cited or submitted to the Patent Office in prior application U.S. Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_ which is properly identified and relied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 for consideration by the Examiner; however, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d), copies of such documents are not included in this information disclosure statement; and/or
3.  listing documents including patents, publications, and other information for consideration by the Examiner, copies of which are included with this information disclosure statement;

APPLICANTS: SHAPPIR, Assaf et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 10/537,857  
FILED: April 03, 2005  
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4.  listing other information for the Examiner's consideration which was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, a copy of which is included with this information disclosure statement.

The information herein cited is only in fulfillment of Applicant(s) duty of candor in disclosing all information brought to Applicant(s) attention. This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art". If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant(s) reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant(s) further reserve(s) the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that each and every document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing on Form PTO-1449. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application and is evidence that the Examiner has considered the document.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

I)  Within three (3) months of filing the subject Application or entry of the subject Application into the national stage or before mailing of the first Office Action on the merits of the subject Application or a request for continued examination thereof, whichever event occurs last pursuant to of 37 C.F.R §1.97 (b); or

II)  After the period specified in (I) but before the mailing date of either a final Official Action under 37 C.F.R §1.113 or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R §1.311 whichever occurs first and;

1.  the undersigned hereby states that each item of information listed on the Form PTO-1449 was either (i) cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to

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SERIAL NO.: 10/537,857  
FILED: April 03, 2005  
Page 3

the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement or (ii) not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, not known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement; or

2.  the undersigned hereby authorizes the Patent Office to charge the fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R §1.17 (p) to Deposit Account 50-3400.

III)  After the period in (I) and (II) but before the payment of the issue fee and,

1. The undersigned hereby states:

a)  that each item of information cited on the form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or

b)  that no items of information contained in Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; and

2.  The undersigned hereby authorizes the Patent Office to charge the Petition fee in the Amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R §1.17 (p) to Deposit Account 50-3400.

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SERIAL NO.: 10/537,857  
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Page 4

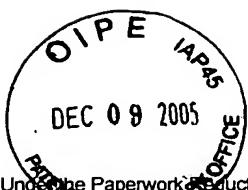
**Except** for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Vladimir Sherman  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Registration No. 43,116

Dated: December 6, 2005

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DEC 09 2005

PTO/SB/08A (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006 OMB 0651-0031  
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| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>              |   |                        |           |
| <b>Complete if Known</b>  |   |                        |           |
| Application Number  |   | 10/537,857             |           |
| Filing Date   |   | 03-Apr-2005            |           |
| First Named Inventor  |   | SHAPPIR, Assaf         |           |
| Group Art Unit  |   |                        |           |
| Examiner Name   |   |                        |           |
| Sheet   | 1 | of                     | 15        |
|   |   | Attorney Docket Number | P-6715-US |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
|                    |                       | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
|                    | AA                    | US-6,449,190                             | Sept.10, 2002                  | BILL   |   |
|                    | AB                    | US-6,128,226                             | Oct. 3, 2000                   | EITAN et al.                                       |   |
|                    | AC                    | US-6,134,156                             | Oct. 17, 2000                  | EITAN  |   |
|                    | AD                    | US-6,584,017                             | June 24, 2003                  | MAAYAN et al.                                      |   |
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|                    | AF                    | US-5,949,714                             | Sept. 7, 1999                  | Hemink et al.                                      |   |
|                    | AG                    | US 6,064,591                             | May 16, 2000                   | Takeuchi et al.                                    |   |
|                    | AH                    | US 6, 075, 724                           | June 13, 2000                  | Li et al.  |   |
|                    | AI                    | US- 5926409                              | July 20, 1999                  | Engh et al.  |   |
|                    | AJ                    | US- 6118692                              | Sept. 12, 2000                 | Banks  |   |
|                    | AL                    | US- 5812457                              | Sep. 22, 1998                  | Arase  |   |
|                    | AM                    | US- 4742491                              | May 8, 1988                    | Liang et al.                                       |   |
|                    | AN                    | US- 5042009                              | Aug. 20, 1991                  | Kazerounian et al.                                 |   |
|                    | AO                    | US- 5295108                              | Mar. 15, 1994                  | Higa   |   |
|                    | AP                    | US- 5440505                              | Aug. 8, 1995                   | Fazio et al.                                       |   |
|                    | AQ                    | US- 5523972                              | Jun. 4, 1996                   | Rashid et al.                                      |   |
|                    | AR                    | US- 5563823                              | Oct. 8, 1996                   | Yiu et al.   |   |
|                    | AS                    | US- 5568085                              | Oct. 22, 1996                  | Eitan et al.                                       |   |
|                    | AT                    | US- 3895360                              | Jul. 15, 1975                  | Cricchi et al.                                     |   |
|                    | AU                    | US- 4388705                              | Jun. 14, 1983                  | Sheppard   |   |

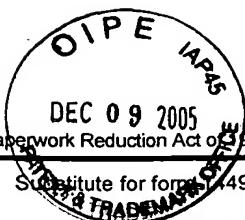
## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>Of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup>           |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|
|                    |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |                          |
|                    | AV                    | EP 0693781  | Jan. 24, 1996                  | United Microelectronics Corp.                      |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    | AW                    | JP 07193151   | Jul. 28, 1995                  | Toshiba Corp.                                      |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    | AX                    | JP 09162314   | Jun. 20, 1997                  | NEC CORP.  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    | AY                    | EP 0 656 628  | 7 June 1995                    | ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES INC (US)                    |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    | AZ                    | WO 01/84552   | Nov. 8, 2001                   | SAIFUN SEMICONDUCTORS LTD.                         |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    | BA                    | EP 1 071 096  | Jan. 24, 2001                  | STMicroelectronics S.r.l.                          |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    | BB                    | JP 10 334676  | Dec. 18, 1998                  | Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd.                            |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    | BC                    | WO 03/100790  | Dec. 4, 2003                   | Advanced Micro Devices Inc. & Fujitsu Ltd.         |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    | BD                    | WO 03/088261  | Oct.23, 2003                   | Advanced Micro Devices Inc. & Fujitsu Ltd.         |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
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| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |   |    |    | Application Number     | 10/537,857     |
|  |   |    |    | Filing Date            | 03-Apr-2005    |
|  |   |    |    | First Named Inventor   | SHAPPIR, Assaf |
|  |   |    |    | Group Art Unit         |                |
|  |   |    |    | Examiner Name          |                |
| Sheet  | 2 | of | 15 | Attorney Docket Number | P-6715-US      |

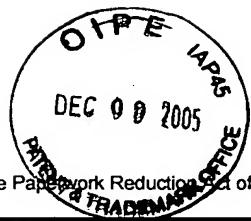
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |  |                  |   |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------|---|---|
| Examiner Initials*    | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|                       |                       | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY       |   |   |
|                       | BE                    | US- 4527257                              | Jul. 2, 1985     | Cricchi   |   |
|                       | BF                    | US- 4667217                              | May 19-1987      | Janning   |   |
|                       | BG                    | US- 5636288                              | Jun. 3, 1997     | Bonneville et al.                               |   |
|                       | BH                    | US- 5715193                              | Feb. 3, 1998     | Norman  |   |
|                       | BI                    | US- 5768193                              | Jun. 16, 1998    | Lee et al.                                      |   |
|                       | BJ                    | US- 5784314                              | Jul. 21, 1998    | Sali et al.                                     |   |
|                       | BK                    | US- 5812456                              | Sep. 22, 1998    | Hull et al.                                     |   |
|                       | BL                    | US- 5812449                              | Sep. 22, 1998    | Song  |   |
|                       | BM                    | US- 5828601                              | Oct. 27, 1998    | Hollmer et al.                                  |   |
|                       | BN                    | US- 5886927                              | Mar. 23, 1999    | Takeuchi  |   |
|                       | BO                    | US- 5892710                              | Apr. 6, 1999     | Fazio et al.                                    |   |
|                       | BP                    | US- 5903031                              | Mat 11, 1999     | Yamada et al.                                   |   |
|                       | BQ                    | US- 5946258                              | Aug. 31, 1999    | Evertt et al.                                   |   |
|                       | BR                    | US- 5969993                              | Oct. 19, 1999    | Takeshima                                       |   |
|                       | BS                    | US- 6034896                              | Mar. 7, 2000     | Ranaweera et al.                                |   |
|                       | BT                    | US- 6097639                              | Aug. 1, 2000     | Choi et al.                                     |   |
|                       | BU                    | US- 6108241                              | Aug. 22, 2000    | Chevallier                                      |   |
|                       | BV                    | US- 6157570                              | Dec. 5, 2000     | Nachumovsky                                     |   |
|                       | BW                    | US- 6169691                              | Jan. 2, 2001     | Pasotti et al.                                  |   |
|                       | BX                    | US- 5241497                              | Aug. 31, 1993    | Komarek   |   |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |   |                                |  |   |
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| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>Of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear |
|                          |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
|                          | BY                    | WO 03/088260  | Oct. 23, 2003                  | Advanced Micro Devices Inc.                        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                          | BZ                    | WO 03/088259  | Oct. 23, 2003                  | Advanced Micro Devices Inc.                        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                          | CA                    | WO 03/088258  | Oct. 23, 2003                  | Advanced Micro Devices Inc.                        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                          | CB                    | WO 03/079370  | Sept. 25, 2003                 | Advanced Micro Devices Inc.                        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                          | CC                    | WO 03/063168  | July 31, 2003                  | Advanced Micro Devices Inc.                        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                          | CD                    | WO 03/063167  | July 31, 2003                  | Advanced Micro Devices Inc.                        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                          | CE                    | WO 03/036651  | May 1, 2003                    | Advanced Micro Devices Inc. & Fujitsu Ltd.         | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                          | CF                    | WO 02/43073   | May 30, 2002                   | Advanced Micro Devices Inc.                        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                          | CG                    | WO 01/65566   | Sept. 7, 2001                  | ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES, INC.                       | <input type="checkbox"/>  |

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|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**  
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Sheet

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**Complete if Known**

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Application Number   | 10/537,857     |
| Filing Date          | 03-Apr-2005    |
| First Named Inventor | SHAPPIR, Assaf |
| Group Art Unit       |                |
| Examiner Name        |                |

Attorney Docket Number P-6715-US

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|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
|                    |                       | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
| CH                 | US- 5293563           |  | Mar. 8, 1994                   | Ohta   |   |
| CI                 | US- 5289412           |  | Feb. 22, 1994                  | Frary et al.                                       |   |
| CJ                 | US-5305262            |  | Apr. 19, 1994                  | Yoneda   |   |
| CK                 | US- 5345425           |  | Sep. 6, 1994                   | Shikatani  |   |
| CL                 | US- 5349221           |  | Sep. 20, 1994                  | Shimoji  |   |
| CM                 | US- 5359554           |  | Oct. 25, 1994                  | Odake et al.                                       |   |
| CN                 | US- 5418743           |  | May 23-1995                    | Tomioka et al.                                     |   |
| CO                 | US- 6181605           |  | Jan. 30, 2001                  | Hollmer et al.                                     |   |
| CP                 | US- 6205056           |  | Mar. 20, 2001                  | Pan et al.   |   |
| CQ                 | US- 6215148           |  | Apr. 10, 2001                  | Eitan  |   |
| CR                 | US- 6215702           |  | Apr. 10, 2001                  | Derhacobian et al.                                 |   |
| CS                 | US- 6240032           |  | May 29, 2001                   | Fukumoto   |   |
| CT                 | US- 6240040           |  | 29-05-2001                     | Akaogi et al.                                      |   |
| CU                 | US- 6266281           |  | Jul. 24, 2001                  | Derhacobian et al.                                 |   |
| CV                 | US- 6292394           |  | Sep. 18, 2001                  | Cohen et al.                                       |   |
| CW                 | US- 6304485           |  | Oct. 16, 2001                  | Harari et al.                                      |   |
| CX                 | US- 6331950           |  | Dec. 18, 2001                  | Kuo et al.   |   |
| CY                 | US- 6396741           |  | May 28-2002                    | Bloom et al.                                       |   |
| CZ                 | US- 6490204           |  | Dec. 3, 2002                   | Bloom et al.                                       |   |
| DA                 | US 2002/0132436       |  | Sep. 19, 2002                  | Eliyahu et al.                                     |   |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>of Cited Document    | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup>           |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
|                    |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |   |   |                          |
| DB                 | WO 01/65567           |   | Sept. 7, 2001                  | ADVANCED MICRO<br>DEVICES, INC.                       |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DC                 | JP 63-249375          |   | Oct. 17, 1988                  | OKI ELECTRIC IND CO LTD.                              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DD                 | JP 3-285358           |   | Dec. 16, 1991                  | MATSUSHITA ELECTRON<br>CORP                           |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DE                 | EP 0 843 398          |   | Published May<br>20, 1998      | WaferScale Integration Inc.                           |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DF                 | WO 00/46808           |   | Aug. 10, 2000                  | Saifun  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DG                 | JP 10-106276          |   | April 24, 1998                 | HITACHI LTD<br>HITACHI VLSI ENG CORP                  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DH                 | JP 02001118392        |   | April 27, 2001                 | Toshiba Corp.   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DI                 | JP 02002216488        |   | Aug 2, 2002                    | IWATE Toshiba Electronics<br>Co. Ltd. & Toshiba Corp. |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DJ                 | JP 408106791          |   | April 23, 1996                 | MATSUSHITA Electric Ind.<br>Co. Ltd.                  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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|  |   |    |    | Application Number       | 10/537,857     |
|  |   |    |    | Filing Date              | 03-Apr-2005    |
|  |   |    |    | First Named Inventor     | SHAPPIR, Assaf |
|  |   |    |    | Group Art Unit           |                |
|  |   |    |    | Examiner Name            |                |
| Sheet  | 4 | of | 15 | Attorney Docket Number   | P-6715-US      |

| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b> |                       |  |                                |  |   |
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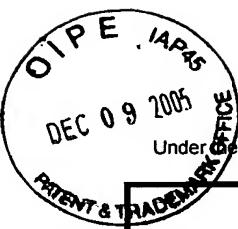
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|                                 | EE                    | JP 408297988  | Nov. 12, 1996                  | Sony Corp.   | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
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|                                 | EH                    | EP 0740307  | Dec. 12, 2001                  | SGSThomson Microelectronics                        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                                 | EI                    | EP 001217744  | Mar. 24, 2004                  | STMicroelectronics S.r.l.                          | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
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| Sheet  | 5 | of | 15 | Attorney Docket Number   | P-6715-US      |

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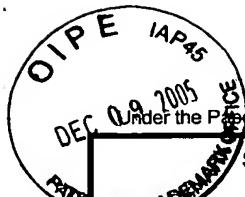
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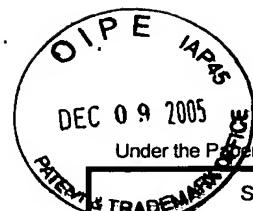
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| Application Number   | 10/537,857     |
| Filing Date          | 03-Apr-2005    |
| First Named Inventor | SHAPPIR, Assaf |
| Group Art Unit       |                |
| Examiner Name        |                |

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Attorney Docket Number P-6715-US

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number<br>Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
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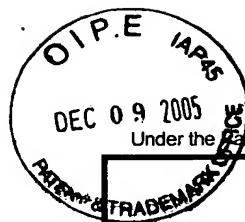
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|  |   |    |    | Group Art Unit           |                |
|  |   |    |    | Examiner Name            |                |
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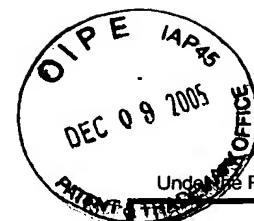
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| Filing Date          | 03-Apr-2005    |
| First Named Inventor | SHAPPIR, Assaf |
| Group Art Unit       |                |
| Examiner Name        |                |

Sheet 10 of 15

Attorney Docket Number P-6715-US

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|                    | IJ                    | US- 6643178                              | Nov. 1, 2003     | Kurihara  |   |
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|                    | IT                    | US 2004/0027858                          | Feb. 1, 2004     | Takahashi et al.                                |   |
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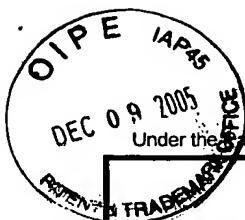
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|                       | JG                    | US-6154081                               | Nov. 28, 2000    | Pakkala, et al.                                 |   |
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|                       | JI                    | US-5708608                               | Jan. 13, 1998    | Park, et al.                                    |   |
|                       | JJ                    | US-4961010                               | Oct. 2, 1990     | Davis   |   |
|                       | JK                    | US-5760634                               | June 2, 1998     | Fu  |   |
|                       | JL                    | US-6351415                               | Feb. 26, 2002    | Kushnarenko                                     |   |
|                       | JM                    | US-6510082                               | Jan. 21, 2003    | Le et al.                                       |   |
|                       | JN                    | US-6477085                               | Nov. 5, 2002     | Kuo   |   |
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|                       | JQ                    | US-6522585                               | Feb. 18, 2003    | Pasternak                                       |   |
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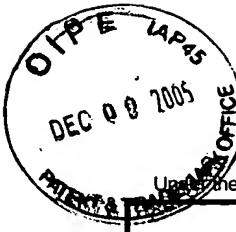
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| Group Art Unit       |                |
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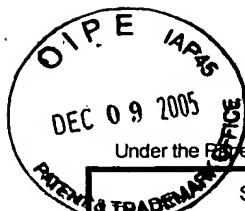
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| Filing Date          | 03-Apr-2005    |
| First Named Inventor | SHAPPIR, Assaf |
| Group Art Unit       |                |
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Attorney Docket Number P-6715-US

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|                    | KW                    | US-4342102  | July 27, 1982                  | Puar   |   |
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|                    | KY                    | US-6150800  | Nov. 21, 2000                  | Kinoshita et al.                                   |   |
|                    | KZ                    | US-6285614  | Sept. 4, 2001                  | Mulatti et al.                                     |   |
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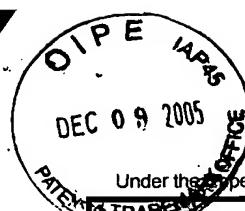
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| Sheet  | 14 | of | 15 | Filing Date            | 03-Apr-2005    |
|  |    |    |    | First Named Inventor   | SHAPPIR, Assaf |
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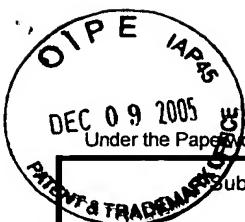
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